

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 IGA-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

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TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013305

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS-: MASS, PINT, BL
SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN MILITARY ATTACHE ON MAP, FMS AND POLITICS

REF: LA PAZ 80

1. AT HIS REQUEST, LTC HUMBERTO CAYOJA MET WITH DESK OFFICER AND ARA POL-MIL OFFICER JANUARY 18 TO DISCUSS MAP MATERIEL DELIVERIES AND FMS FOR BOLIVIA. REGARDING MAP MATERIEL, CAYOJA REPEATED FAMILIAR GOB LITANY OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT SLOW DELIVERIES. WE RESPONDED BY NOTING WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASSURED GOB THAT USG IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE DELIVERIES, AND THAT SUCH ASSURANCES REMAIN VALID. CAYOJA WAS ALSO GIVEN A GENERAL EXPLANATION OF USG/PLANNING/BUDGET/APPROPRIATION PROCESS AND CONCOMITANT LEAD TIME PROBLEM WHICH GOB APPEARS TO PERCEIVE AS A FAILURE TO MEET OUR COMMITMENTS. WE ALSO OFFERED
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TO MEET AGAIN TO PROVIDE CAYOJA WITH DETAILED STATUS

REPORT ON MAP MATERIEL. CAYOJA THANKED US FOR EXPLANATION AND SAID HE WISHED TO RECEIVED DETAILED REPORT SOONEST. FYI WE EXPECT TO MEET WITH HIM AGAIN THIS WEEK. END FYI.

2. TURNING TO FMS, CAYOJA SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INITIATE FMS CASH PURCHASE OF THE TWO NAVAL PATROL BOATS "OFFERED" IN CNO'S DECEMBER 13, 1973, LETTER TO ADM. PINTO AND THAT DEPARTMENT WILL BE RECEIVING FORMAL NOTE ON THIS MATTER SHORTLY. CAYOJA SAID GOB HAD DECIDED TO INITIATE REQUEST IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN LA PAZ BECAUSE OF

ALLEGED "BUREAUCRATIC DELAY" IN REQUESTS SUBMITTED THROUGH MILGRP. WE POINTED OUT THAT USG POLICY REQUIRES ALL SUCH REQUESTS BE REVIEWED BY CT PRIOR TO FORMAL USG DECISION. ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL HAVE TO REFER THIS REQUEST TO EMBASSY BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION.

3. GIVEN GOB'S APPARENT INTERPRETATION OF CNO'S LETTER AS A FIRM USG OFFER OF FMS SALE, AND THAT A DECISION TO DISAPPROVE SALE COULD HAVE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE CT'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE GOB REQUEST.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH DESK OFFICER, CAYOJA ANALYSED PROBLEMS FACING BANZER GOVERNMENT, CONCLUDING THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS DETERIORATING BECAUSE OF BANZER'S "SELL OUT" TO PRIVATE MINING INTERESTS AND THAT PRESTIGIOUS, ALL MILITARY CABINET IS ONLY SOLUTION TO CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. MEMCON FOLLOWS BY POUCH. KISSINGER

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